

Weekly Newscast Lesson Plan



Learning English with CBC is a joint project with
CBC Calgary, CBC Edmonton and the Government of Alberta



Calgary

April 18, 2017

Objectives:

- To develop listening skills
- To increase vocabulary
- To increase knowledge of current events
- To provide an authentic learning resource

Contents:

- Three news stories
- Vocabulary building activities
- Listening comprehension activities
- Transcripts
- Answer keys

News story #1 Trudeau criticizes Syrian president (0:12)

Setting the Scene



Canada's Prime Minister Justin Trudeau (*left*) and Syrian president Bashar al-Assad (*right*) (Charly Triballeau/AFP/Getty Images, SANA/Reuters) (CBC file photos)

The conflict in Syria affects the whole world. Countries in Europe and nearby Middle Eastern countries have accepted thousands of Syrian refugees. So have countries further from Syria, such as Australia and the United States. In Canada, over 40,000 refugees have been resettled so far. These people have had to leave their home country of Syria because the conflict there makes life unsafe. Many countries around the world want to help resolve these conflicts so that safety and peace can return to Syria.

Pre-listening Questions

What do you know about the conflict in Syria?

Which countries are taking large numbers of Syrian refugees?

Canada accepts many refugees. Are there other ways that Canada can help Syrians?

Vocabulary

Synonym Matching

To help you better understand the story, choose the pair of synonyms (words with similar meaning) that best match each of the vocabulary words. *Answers are in the appendix.*

<u>Answer</u>	<u>Word from the story</u>	<u>Synonym</u>
_____	solution (n.)	a) give reason, excuse
_____	widely (adv.)	b) answer, reply
_____	responsible (adj.)	c) peace, calm
_____	attack (n.)	d) commonly, broadly
_____	explain (v.)	e) bombing, strike
_____	stability (n.)	f) include, bring in
_____	involve (v.)	g) answer, result
_____	comments (n.)	h) statements, opinions
_____	response (n.)	i) in control, guilty

Extra words to help you better understand the listening:

war crimes – an act during war that is against international law

chemical weapons – a weapon that uses chemicals to hurt or kill people

Group of Seven Nations – an international council of seven countries that make shared decisions

We encourage you to study these new words using this link: https://quizlet.com/_3cmnog

You can practice online for free and as many times as you want to. The Quizlet app is a free vocabulary study tool. You can download it to your phone or tablet and practice new vocabulary whenever you have time.

Listening Task

Multiple Choice

Read the following sentences. Then listen to the audio and circle the best answer to complete the sentences. *Answers are in the appendix.*

1. Justin Trudeau has taken a new and **stranger / stable / stronger** position against Syria's president.
2. Trudeau says that President Assad is not part of the solution for that **city / citizens / country**.
3. Many believe that Assad's **governor / graduates / government** is responsible for war crimes.
4. These crimes include a chemical weapons attack that killed **dozens / differences / departments** of people.
5. Trudeau says that Assad and his government need to explain their **happenings / actings / actions**.
6. He says the world needs to move as **carefully / quickly / quietly** as possible towards peace and stability in Syria.
7. Trudeau made these comments to **foreign / finance / fourteen** ministers.
8. The **countries / comments / complaints** were part of a Group of Seven Nations meeting.
9. The group met in **Ireland / Ontario / Italy** to discuss a response to Assad's chemical attack.

Food for Thought

What do you think the G7 can do to help Syria?

What will happen to Assad? Do you think he will be punished?

What can you, as an individual (or as a class) do to help Syrian people?

News story #2 Passenger dragged off United Airlines flight (1:06)

Setting the Scene



(Jayse D. Anspach/Twitter) (CBC file photo)

It is not unusual for airlines to sell too many tickets for a flight. Often, passengers are late, or choose to change their tickets. Airlines will over-sell tickets for a flight so that, even with cancelled tickets, the plane is full. However, flights can be *overbooked*. This means that not enough people cancelled, and there are too many passengers. In this situation, airlines have to ask passengers to change tickets. In this story, no one wanted to change tickets, so the airline forced passengers to get off the plane.

Pre-listening Questions

Do you like to travel by plane? Why or why not?

Have you ever been delayed when flying? What happened? What did you do?

If your flight was overbooked, would you take a later flight? What if the airline offered you something extra? (e.g., a hotel room, restaurant coupons, money)?

Vocabulary

Matching

To help you better understand the words in the news story, match the words with their definitions.
Answers are in the appendix.

<u>Answer</u>	<u>Vocabulary word</u>	<u>Definition</u>
_____	passenger (n.)	a) the pieces on either side of a chair where arms can rest
_____	posted (v.)	b) people who offer to do something
_____	dragging (v.)	c) included in something
_____	armrest (n.)	d) displayed for the public to see
_____	removed (v.)	e) said no to something
_____	volunteers (n.)	f) unexpected and usually unpleasant event
_____	random (adj.)	g) pulling someone with force
_____	refused (v.)	h) happening without a plan or pattern
_____	involved (adj.)	i) took something out of its position
_____	incident (n.)	j) a traveller on a vehicle (e.g., train, bus, airplane)

Extra words to help you better understand the listening:

boarding pass – an airplane ticket with a specific seat number on it

aviation – related to airplanes or flying

placed on leave – asked to stop attending work for a period of time until a problem is resolved

We encourage you to study these new words using this link: https://quizlet.com/_3cmnrz

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Listening Activity

Matching

Read the types of people below. As you listen to the audio, complete the sentences by matching the people with the correct information that follows.

Answers are in the appendix.

Person	Information	
passenger	•	• had a ticket and a boarding pass
airport security	•	• put a video on the Internet
69-year-old man	•	• there were none who offered to help
United Airlines	•	• dragged a man from a flight
volunteers	•	• made a statement
the crew	•	• said the flight had booked too many tickets
aviation department	•	• are now on leave
three police officers	•	• chose four passengers to get off the plane

Food for thought

Did you watch the video of the United Airlines passenger? What did you think?

What do you think the airline should have done?

If you were a passenger on that flight, what would you have done?

News story #3 Three bear cubs found in public washroom (1:59)

Setting the Scene



(Parks Canada) (CBC file photo)

Many wild animals live in the Banff area, including bears. Visitors to Banff are told to be careful around wild animals. Bears may look cute, but they can be dangerous. This is especially true with bear cubs, or young bears. Sometimes, people see young bear cubs and try to hold them, because they're small and cute. However, this can be very dangerous. If the cubs' mother is close, she may hurt the people to keep her babies safe. If you see bear cubs, be very careful.

Pre-listening Questions

What kind of wild animals live in Alberta? How many have you seen?

What do you know about bear safety? Where did you learn it?

What kind of wild animals live in your home country?

Vocabulary

Find the definition (Multiple Choice)

Learning some of the new words you will hear in the listening will help you understand the news story. Read the sentences below and choose the best definition for the words in **bold**.

Answers are in the appendix.

1. Animal behaviour can be difficult to **figure out**, because we can't use language to ask them questions.
 - a. understand
 - b. write down
2. If you see a bear, make sure there is a path for it to get away. If the bear feels **trapped**, it can get angry.
 - a. not able to see
 - b. not able to leave
3. We didn't want to take a long hike. Luckily, we **discovered** a shorter path through the park.
 - a. wanted
 - b. found
4. I think Calgary Tower is the best **viewpoint** for seeing the whole city, because it's so tall.
 - a. place to look out at a scene or landscape
 - b. place that is easy to see from a distance
5. Certain animal noises and movements, such as growling, are **signs** that they feel unsafe.
 - a. something that communicates information
 - b. something that is written or photographed
6. In Canadian parks, **wardens** make sure everyone in the park is following the rules.
 - a. visitors
 - b. officials
7. For park visitors who want exercise, there are **options** of hiking, biking, swimming, and sometimes sports like baseball.
 - a. free things
 - b. choices
8. She lives in Calgary, but is thinking of **relocating** to Cochrane, to be closer to the mountains.
 - a. moving
 - b. visiting

Extra definitions to help you understand the listening:

TransCanada Highway – a highway that runs across Canada

rehabilitation facility – a place where people or animals recover from problems, with professional help

certified zoo - a zoo that is approved by the government

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Listening Activity

Short Answer

Read the questions below. Listen to the audio and answer the questions.

Answers are in the appendix.

1. What type of bear cubs were discovered in a washroom?
2. They were found on which famous road?
3. When were the cubs discovered?
4. What is Vermillion Lakes?
5. Is it in Banff?
6. How many other bears were in the area?
7. Who is taking care of the cubs now?
8. The cubs might be moved to what kind of place? *Check all that apply.*
 - ___ a certified park
 - ___ a certified zoo
 - ___ a bear facility
 - ___ a rehabilitation facility
 - ___ Banff National Park

Food for thought

How do you think the bears got trapped in the washroom?

If you saw those bears in the washroom, what would you do?

What do you think will happen to the bears?

Transcripts of Weekly news stories

	APRIL WEEKLY NEWS STORIES	TIME
Introduction	Hi. I'm Ron Nicolson, and this is Learning English with the CBC for April 18 th , with stories that made news over the past week.	0:00
Story 1	Prime Minister Justin Trudeau has taken a new stronger position against Syria's president. Trudeau says Bashar Al-Assad is not part of the solution for that country. It's widely thought the Assad government is responsible for war crimes, including a chemical weapons attack that killed dozens of people, including many children. Trudeau says Assad and his government must explain their actions, and the world needs to move as quickly as possible towards peace and stability in Syria, and that does not involve Bashar al-Assad. He made his comments as foreign ministers of the Group of Seven Nations met in Italy to try to agree on a response to the chemical attack.	0:12
Story 2	A United Airlines passenger has posted a video online, showing airport security dragging another passenger from an overbooked flight. The video shows the 69-year-old man being dragged down the aisle of the plane at Chicago's O'Hare Airport. The man, who had a ticket and a boarding pass, fell and hit his head on an armrest while he was being removed. United Airlines says the flight was overbooked, and when no volunteers came forward, the crew chose four passengers at random. They called in security when the man refused to leave. Chicago's aviation department now says three of its police officers involved in the incident have been placed on leave.	1:06
Story 3	Parks Canada is trying to figure out how three young black bear cubs got trapped in a washroom along the TransCanada Highway. The cubs were discovered on April 1 st by a member of the public, who stopped to use the bathroom at the Vermillion Lakes viewpoint, just west of Banff. The mother bear was not around, and there were no signs of any other bears in the area. The cubs are now in the care of Parks Canada, and wardens are looking at options, including relocating them to a rehabilitation facility or a certified zoo.	1:59

Answer keys

News story 1 Trudeau criticizes Syrian president (0:12)

Vocabulary

<u>Answer</u>	<u>Word from the story</u>	<u>Synonym</u>
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<u>d</u>	widely (adv.)	b) answer, reply
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<u>e</u>	attack (n.)	d) commonly, broadly
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<u>c</u>	stability (n.)	f) include, bring in
<u>f</u>	involve (v.)	g) answer, result
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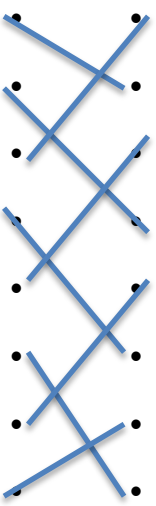
Listening

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2. Trudeau says that President Assad is not part of the solution for that **city / citizens / country**.
3. Many believe that Assad's **governor / graduates / government** is responsible for war crimes.
4. These crimes include a chemical weapons attack that killed **dozens / differences / departments** of people.
5. Trudeau says that Assad and his government need to explain their **happenings / actings / actions**.
6. He says the world needs to move as **carefully / quickly / quietly** as possible towards peace and stability in Syria.
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9. The group met in **Ireland / Ontario / Italy** to discuss a response to Assad's chemical attack.

News story 2**Passenger dragged off United Airlines flight (1:06)****Vocabulary**

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g	dragging (v.)	c) included in something
a	armrest (n.)	d) displayed for the public to see
i	removed (v.)	e) said no to something
b	volunteers (n.)	f) unexpected and usually unpleasant event
h	random (adj.)	g) pulling someone with force
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Listening

Person		Information
passenger		had a ticket and a boarding pass
airport security		put a video on the Internet
69-year-old man		there were none who offered to help
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News story 3

Three bear cubs found in public washroom (1:59)

Vocabulary

1. Animal behaviour can be difficult to **figure out**, because we can't use language to ask them questions.
a. understand
b. write down
2. If you see a bear, make sure there is a path for it to get away. If the bear feels **trapped**, it can get angry.
a. not able to see
b. not able to leave
3. We didn't want to take a long hike. Luckily, we **discovered** a shorter path through the park.
a. wanted
b. found
4. I think Calgary Tower is the best **viewpoint** for seeing the whole city, because its' so tall.
a. place to look out at a scene or landscape
b. place that is easy to see from a distance
5. Certain animal noises and movements, such as growling, are **signs** that they feel unsafe.
a. something that communicates information
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6. In Canadian parks, **wardens** make sure everyone in the park is following the rules.
a. visitors
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7. For park visitors who want exercise, there are **options** of hiking, biking, swimming, and sometimes sports like baseball.
a. free things
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8. She lives in Calgary, but is thinking of **relocating** to Cochrane, to be closer to the mountains.
a. moving
b. visiting

Listening

1. What type of bear cubs were discovered in a washroom?
black bear cubs
2. They were found on which famous road?
the TransCanada Highway
3. When were the cubs discovered?
on April 1st
4. What is Vermillion Lakes?
a viewpoint
5. Is it in Banff?
no, it is just west of Banff

6. How many other bears were in the area?

none

7. Who is taking care of the cubs now?

Parks Canada

8. The cubs might be moved to what kind of place? *Check all that apply.*

☐ a certified park

☒ a certified zoo

☐ a bear facility

☒ a rehabilitation facility

☐ Banff National Park